FDI in Telecom Sector

103. SHRI M.A.M. RAMASWAMY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to hike Foreign Direct Investment in the Telecom Sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have prepared any broad parameters for such investment;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A proposal to hike Foreign Direct Investment limits in telecom sector from 49% to 74% was announced to the Budget 2004-05

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does no arise in view of (c) above.

(e) Preparation of parameters for such investment is subject to consultations with concerned Ministries and Departments.

Special package to telecom industry

104. SHRI M.A.M. RAMASWAMY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to award a special package to help the telecom industry in the country to the tune of Rs. 960 crores;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of benefits that are likely to accrue to MTNL, BSNL and other private telecom operators; and

(d) the steps taken to implement the package?